

Message Text

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14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009420

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: LOPEZ IMPRISONMENT

REFS: A. MANILA 14325 DTD 6 DEC 74, B. MANILA 14722 DTD

14 DEC 74, C. MANILA 15181 DTD 28 DEC 74

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH ALEJANDRO A ESCLAMADO, PUBLISHER OF THE PHILIPPINE NEWS AND STEVE PSINAKIS, LOPEZ SON-IN-LAW, IN SAN FRANCISCO ON JANUARY 27TH. QUESTION OF CONTINUED DETENTION OF EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR. AND SERGIO OSMENA III WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY ARISE DURING THIS CONVERSATION. OUR PRINCIPAL INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT GOES BACK TO REFTELS IN DECEMBER 1974.

2. SITUATION AT THAT TIME WAS THAT MARCOS HAD PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 11, 1974, THAT LOPEZ AND OSMENA WOULD BE CHARGED BEFORE CIVIL COURTS. IT WAS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY WOULD BE RELEASED FROM MILITARY DETENTION TO HOSPITALS, WITH PRIVILEGE OF VISITING THEIR HOMES WHILE PREPARING THEIR DEFENSE. EARLIER, ENRILE LETTER OF 28 NOVEMBER 1974 APPEARED TO PROMISE THAT EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR. WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO HOSPITAL, AND THAT HIS STATUS MIGHT

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BE CHANGED TO HOUSE ARREST BEFORE CHRISTMAS 1974. ALSO,

LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ TO CONGRESSMAN BURTON IN

ATTER PART OF 1974 HAD INDICATED THAT GOP WAS STUDYING
POSSIBILITY OF AMNESTY.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE UPDATED REPORT ON STATUS OF LOPEZ
AND OSMENA, REPEATED TO CINCPAC FOR INFORMATION OF ASSIS-
TANT SECRETARY HABIB. KISSINGER

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